JULY 20, AD 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twentieth Day of July, *in the Year of our Lord* 2025

- ONE - IS - YOUR - MASTER - AND - ALL - YE - ARE - BRETHREN -

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"All Glory, Laud and Honor"* (#17, v. 1).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"Since Jesus Came into my Heart"* (#259).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Lev. 20:7-15, 26.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Redeemed"* (#265).

Announcemnts.

Hymn: *"There is Power in the Blood"* (#268).

Dismissal of Youth for Children's Church.

Message: *"HERMENEUTICS: RIGHTLY HANDLING THE WORD."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus"* (#250).

Rededication of Marital Obligations: *Mickey & Bobbi Harris*

Benediction.*

For those choosing to remain today for a time of fellowship, Bobbi and Mickey have provided some leftovers from Saturday's party.

Stewardship a way of life

Week of July 13 – July 19

Sunday School—9; Morning Worship—16;
Midweek—4; Brethren Class—3; Weekly Offering—$1076.00

Brethren Heritage, Beliefs & Practices Class:
Tentatively 7/21/25 at 7:00 PM.

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study: Thurs., 6:30PM.

HAVE YOU BEEN SCRIPTURALLY BAPTIZED?

In about a month, we will have a Baptismal Service. The water *saves* no one—**but nonetheless, it is Christ's solemn command** (*'nuff said!*). Scriptural Baptism requires **1)** a **proper candidate** (a saved person), **2)** a **proper authority** (a true church), **3)** a **proper motivation** (the "WHY"), and **4)** the **proper mode:** Trine Immersion. See the Pastor if you feel the burden of obedience!

DR. JOHN MACARTHUR (1939-2025)

2Tim.4:7: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

What great joy when a departed saint enters the Lord's Presence, having left behind an example and testimony of having finished the race well! Yet, it is also bittersweet, as such a departure represents an enormous loss for the Body of Christ. We thank God for the life and ministry of Dr. John MacArthur—uncompromising fundamentalist, firm Calvinist, master of expository preaching, prolific author, and pastor of the Grace Community Church of Sun Valley, CA, since 1969. Those who knew Dr. MacArthur personally universally testify as to his warmth, kindliness, and sacrificial generosity. But as a stalwart defender of TRUTH, he was dynamic, forceful, and unyielding, which generated much controversy and created a slew of enemies—the mark of a *true disciple* (John 17:14)! Secularists, liberals, charismatics, neo-evangelicals, Romanists—and sometimes even his fellow fundamentalists (some of whom misrepresented his stand against "*easy believism*")—would launch repeated broadside attacks—but through it all, he stood undaunted and unapologetic in his convictions. He bequeaths to the Body of Christ the great legacies of the *MacArthur Study Bible* and the *Master's Theological Seminary*, and beyond a shadow of a doubt, he inherits the great reward that is reserved unto the Lord's faithful steward: *"Well done, good and faithful slave"* (Matt. 25:31 LSB)!

"BUT PASTOR… my prior Baptism meant so MUCH to me!"

Pastor Terry Reese, Valley GC, Armagh, PA; 7/16/25

There are those who have been convinced that Matt. 28:19 expressly teaches Trine Immersion—but due to emotional baggage attached to their prior baptism, are *still* reluctant to submit to rebaptism. This is a **real** hangup for many sincere people, who feel that rebaptism would somehow *"wash away"* the heartfelt intent and meaning that was associated with their prior experience. Some who were baptized as adults by single-immersion will say *"I was sincerely attempting to dedicate myself unto God!"* Others who were baptized as babies may hesitate at dishonoring the loving intent of their parents, who had them sprinkled. In this regard, let us observe several salient points: **1)** In calling upon folks to follow the explicit command of Christ, we are *not* attempting to dishonor or ridicule them or their families. Indeed, we affirm that God *knows* the sincere intent that stood behind your previous commitment—and on *that level*, honors the same. **2)** NOW that you have received **deeper enlightenment** in the Lord's ways, however, **you have ascended to a different level of accountability**. **NOW** you are being called-upon to honor God ***once again***, in the light of your higher level of understanding! ***James 4:17: "Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin."***

Biblical Forms and Ordinances are not *only* a matter of expressing our personal dedication unto the Lord: God also has an important *teaching-agenda* associated with these Sacred Symbols—and therefore demands that these Rites be conducted *accurately*, so that the Divinely-intended message be correctly communicated and conveyed. In other words, **BOTH** *Form* and *Sincerity* are important unto God with regard to His Holy and Sacred Ordinances! In Old Testament times, God's anger burned severely against the Israelites for careless lapses in following correct form and ceremony (Lev. 10:1-3; 2 Sam. 6:3-10), **AND** for having an insincere and irreverent heart-attitude (Isa. 1:11-14, Jer. 6:20). In the New Testament Dispensation, God likewise takes His appointed Forms most *seriously* (1 Cor. 11:29-30)—even TODAY!

In Biblical Trine Immersion, we are exhibiting **proper worship** of the Triune God and **personally identifying** ourselves with each Person of the Holy Trinity. We are professing our Faith in the Three Divine Personalities and praising Each for their mighty redemptive deeds on our behalf! Baptist **Single Immersion**—a Rite that *only* focuses upon the Death, Buriel, Resurrection of Christ—DOES **NOT** DO THIS!